

**Question for written answer E-000678/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Public procurement obstacles in Italy and their impact on fair competition

In 2010, the Italian Government passed an anti-mafia law requiring civil service departments to encode procurement documents. The Government Procurement Code, the aim of which is to regulate public procurement, came into force in March 2023. Under the law, an on-line portal must be used and a CIG identification code for payment tracking must be generated.

It requires all civil service departments to operate via an on-line portal and generate a CIG code in order to track payments. What this specifically means is that for an urgent repair to a vehicle (e.g. an oil change) the relevant contracting authority must upload all the necessary procurement documents and interested firms must submit their expressions of interest or quotes via the on-line portal. The procedure manager generates a CIG code, which must be given on the invoice. As a result of this complex procedure, there is more red tape both for civil service departments and for the firms involved, especially in the case of low-value direct awards.

1. How does the Commission intend to ensure that government stipulations and the complexity of procurement procedures do not disadvantage micro-enterprises and do not distort competition in favour of larger firms, including as regards potentially higher costs for civil service departments?
2. Is the current additional administrative burden in keeping with EU stipulations on simplifying public procurement?

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